

SHORTER NOTES

AN INTERESTING TROPICAL LICHEN NEW TO THE UNITED STATES.—Some time ago Mr. W. S. Labrot sent me a small lot of lichens collected at Avery Island, New Orleans, Louisiana, by Mr. Edward McIlhenny, in January, 1915. Among them was one which was kindly determined for me by Dr. L. W. Riddle as *Trypethelium madreporiforme* Eschw. (in Martius' Flora Brasiliensis 1: 156. 1833). As this species has been known previously from South America only, where it has been found in Brazil, French Guiana, and Colombia, its occurrence in the United States is of considerable interest. Furthermore, it is the only member of the Trypetheliaceae found in the United States that has muriform spores. It should, therefore, now be placed in the genus *Laurera* as ***Laurera madreporiformis*** (Eschw.) Riddle in litt. **comb. nov.**

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REVIEWS

Fungoid Diseases of Farm and Garden Crops*

This condensed treatise on plant diseases is addressed mainly to farmers, gardeners, and agricultural students, as well as to lecturers and others who teach agricultural subjects. The author has discussed the more important diseases of the common field and garden crops necessarily very briefly, but nevertheless with scientific accuracy. He apparently has a clear conception of the practical needs and limitations of the modern agriculturist and has undoubtedly succeeded in presenting a very readable and, withal, accurate and useful little book. Professor Bessey has contributed a prefatory note, besides some subject matter on a few of the pages.

Following a chapter on general information, treating of the general characteristics of the disease-producing organisms, the author classifies his diseases according to hosts, and treats of the principal fungous diseases of cereals, of leguminous plants, of

* By Thomas Milburn, with a prefatory note by E. A. Bessey, pp. 1-118. Longmans, Green and Co., 1915. Price 65 cents net.

potatoes, of crucifers, of mangels and beets, and, finally, of farm animals. In each case is discussed the symptoms, the cause and the preventive measures, for the most part with adequate completeness.

E. W. OLIVE

NEWS ITEMS

Dr. J. J. Taubenhaus, until recently associate plant pathologist of the Delaware Experiment Station, will deliver the John Lewis Russell lecture before the Massachusetts Horticultural Society on March 27, on "Diseases of Sweet Peas." He has recently been appointed head plant pathologist and physiologist at Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, College Station, Texas, where letters may be addressed after February 20.

At the meeting of the Society of American Bacteriologists held at the University of Illinois at the end of December, Dr. Thomas J. Burrill, formerly vice-president of the university, was elected president of the society for the coming year.

On December 15, 1915, Dr. C. Stuart Gager addressed the Rhode Island Horticultural Society, at Providence, on the effects of electricity and radium-rays on the growth of plants.

Work is now under way for the completion of the laboratory building and first range of plant houses at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The completion of these buildings at this time was made possible by the donation, by three friends of the garden, of \$100,000 on the condition that a like sum be appropriated for the same purpose by the City of New York.

At the seventh annual meeting of the American Phytopathological Society, held at Columbus, Ohio, from December 28 to 31, the following officers were elected: *President*, Dr. Erwin F. Smith, Bureau of Plant Industry, Washington, D. C.; *Vice-president*, Dr. Mel. T. Cook, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, New Brunswick, N. J.; *Secretary-Treasurer*, Dr. C. L. Shear, Bureau of Plant Industry, Washington, D. C.; *Councilor*, Dr. F. D. Kern, Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pa. Dr. E. C. Stakman, Minnesota Agricultural College, Minneapolis,